

Ottis Dewey (Slim) Whitman Jr.

**This is a biographical work
based on archival sources
with edits, notes, images, arrangement
by Larry W Jones**

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Introduction

Slim Whitman was born Ottis Dewey Whitman Jr. on Saturday January 20, 1923 in the Oak Park neighborhood of Tampa Florida. He was the second child of Ottis Dewey Whitman Sr, and Lucy Dora (Mahon) Whitman. Listed by date of birth: Dorothy Bruce Whitman Kee (1920–2009), Ottis Dewey “Slim” Whitman (1923–2013), Gloria Elizabeth Whitman Elliott (1931–2000) and Armand Merrell Whitman (1934–2016). His father was a carpenter/contractor and his mother was a box maker in a box factory.

Slim Whitman was an American country music singer-songwriter and guitarist known for his yodeling abilities and his use of falsetto (a tenor, singing notes higher than their normal range). He sold between 70 - 120 million records during a career that spanned over seven decades, and consisted of a prolific output of over 100 albums and around 500 recorded songs, that not only consisted of country music, but also of contemporary gospel, Broadway show tunes, love songs and standards. In the 1950s, Whitman toured with Elvis Presley as the opening act.

While growing up in Florida and listening to the radio, he was captivated by the yodeling style of Mississippi singer Jimmie Rodgers who is billed as the “Father Of Country Music”, and Canadian singer Montana Slim (Wilf Carter). He soon mastered the art of leapfrogging into his voice’s high falsetto range and could match their yodels note for note. Another big influence was the songs of silver screen cowboy actor-singer Gene Autry.

As a child, Whitman’s stutter was ridiculed by other children and as a result, he left school as soon as he could. Because he had a stutter, he was more comfortable singing rather than talking, so his future wife was his announcer on radio! But later on she said it was time for him to do the talking too. So, when he first started, he had a script, but one day he left the script in the dressing room and he had to say something! So he overcame that simply by being himself and being friendly. His stuttering was cured. But she would always be “the woman behind the man.” Noted for his pencil-thin mustache, he became one of country’s most popular performers and recording artists of the 1950s.

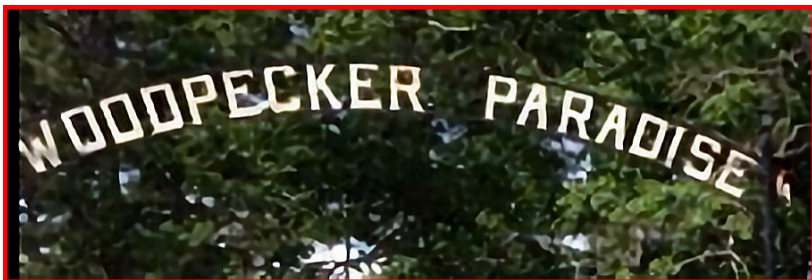
At age 15, Slim met and fell in love with Alma Geraldine “Jerry” Crist. They dated for three years when, much to the dismay of Jerry's preacher father, in 1941 she eloped with Slim. Jerry says, “we fibbed about our age.” He and Geraldine “Jerry” were married on Saturday June 28, 1941 when Slim was 18 and she 17. They settled on her parent’s forty acres nestled in the woods south of Jacksonville, Florida at Middleburg. They named their small haven “Woodpecker Paradise.” Jerry was Slim's inspiration throughout the years. They would eventually have two children, Sharron Carlene and Byron Keith.



“Woodpecker Paradise” from 1957

Slim borrowed ten dollars from his mother for a marriage license. He and Jerry moved into a small wood-framed house on 40 acres that his father-in-law purchased. The young couple started their life together. The woodpeckers would hammer away on their modest little home and everything else on the forty acres, so they named it “Woodpecker Paradise.”

The woodpecker species that regularly visited included the Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, and their favorite, the Pileated Woodpecker.



Slim worked in the Tampa shipyard as a shipfitter and boilermaker until World War II. In 1943 the young Floridian was assigned to a troop transport, the U.S.S. Chilton, where he saw action in the South Pacific. Her task was to deliver troops to the battle front, and to recover and care for the wounded. She served in the Pacific Ocean in the war against the Empire of Japan.



U.S.S. Chilton

To stay in shape and pass the time he took up boxing. On board he found an old guitar, strung it backwards to suit his left-handed style, and taught himself to play. It wasn't long until he joined a small group and began singing to his fellow sailors in a weekly entertainment program called "Happy Hour." The first song performed for the all-sailor audience, "When I'm Gone You'll Soon Forget," was greeted with a few boos and hisses. Understandably, this song was a poor choice to sing to a ship load of homesick boys missing their sweethearts. Slim changed to up-tempo numbers and became a hit with his shipmates. When he wasn't entertaining the battle-fatigued sailors by sparring with an opponent in the boxing ring, he could be found singing and yo-yoing. One evening at dusk off the island of Okinawa, a Kamikaze slammed into the mast pole, sending it crashing to the deck, where Slim had been

standing just moments earlier. When asked what he did when the barrage began, Slim said, "I just tried to dig a hole in the deck." It was a close call, but someone was looking after the young sailor. A twist of fate saved Slim a second time when orders arrived transferring him to another ship. Captain Guisenhoff was not too pleased with this, as he recognized what a tremendous morale booster third class petty officer Whitman was for his battle weary men. Thankfully, the orders were changed. The ship Slim was scheduled to transfer to was later sunk in the battle of the Leyte Gulf taking all hands to the bottom of the Pacific.

After the war, in 1946, Slim went back to work at the Tampa shipyard and played baseball during his off hours on the company team. It wasn't long until his athletic prowess was discovered by scouts for the "Plant City Berries", a Class C baseball team in the Orange Belt League. Slim's 6'2" stance made him a formidable and powerful batter with an average of .360. Thanks to his left-handed pitching, he excelled on the pitcher's mound and led the team to a pennant in 1947 with a record of eleven wins and one loss.

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PORTSTOPS
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THERE ARE FIVE OR SIX LEAGUES ready to go in Florida. The first will be the West Coast League, starting Sunday, April 14, and including Goody-Goody, Port Tampa, St. Petersburg, Mulberry, Plant City, Bradenton, Brooksville and Lakeland. The Orange Belt League will get under way May 1; V. Granell of Tampa will be the manager. The East Coast League will have Miami, Miami Beach, Hollywood, Ft. Lauderdale, Palm Beach and Ft. Pierce teams and will start playing May 1. At Ft. Myers, the Tamiami Trail League will start its season on May 1, with Bradenton, Sarasota, Ft. Myers, Punta Gorda and Bonita Springs. A number of local boys will play on the Miami and Ft. Lauderdale clubs of the East Coast League. Most of them will "stick" as they can play Class D ball. They played better than Class D ball last year.

would be the answer."

The Teagues stones from person heard of the unique hope some day to from North Carolina

No Wonder He
"Archimedes", re boy, aloud, "leaped shouting, "Eureka!" "Eureka' means it," said the boy.

"Very well. What medes found?" of teacher.

The boy hesitated hopefully, "The

Vicarious I
Valet—Your baw sir.

Master—Aw, I take the bawth Perkins, make it a

AIR and from now

The Key West Citizen April 12, 1940

Slim hung up his glove in 1948 and began singing on various radio stations including WDAE, WHBO, and WFLA in Florida. He formed his own band and sang to anyone who would listen. They soon gained the attention of the owner of a Tampa supermarket, who agreed to sponsor "Slim Whitman and his Variety Rhythm Boys." It was at this time, prior to his introduction to RCA records, he took the name Slim. It appears on his very first record a 78 RPM one-sided release titled "Way Down In Florida, The Only Place To Be." Slim paid \$50 for 50 pressings of the record and he and his dad hand delivered them to radio stations in the area. There is only one known record that survived over the years. No images of the record are found.



It was after this release that Colonel Tom Parker, then Eddy Arnold's manager and later Elvis', saw Slim at WFLA radio, liked what he heard, and sent an acetate to RCA records. This led to Slim's first recording contract in 1948. Colonel Parker was too busy with Eddy to manage Slim, so he turned the job over to his stepson Bob Ross, who incidentally is the voice heard doing the narrative in one of Slim's first recordings "Paint a Rose on the Garden Wall."



WFLA AM & FM - A History - WFLA-AM 820 Clearwater & WFLA-FM 93.3 Tampa – WFLA had its beginnings in 1925 as Clearwater's WGHB-AM (owned by George H. Bowles) operated from studios in Dunedin's Fenway Hotel. In January 1927 Edward A. Haley, owner of Clearwater's Fort Harrison Hotel, changed its call to WFHH (Fort Harrison Hotel). In July 1927, the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce changed its call to WSUN (Why Stay Up North). In August 1927, WFHH changed its calls to WFLA (West FLorida).

Thomas Andrew Parker (born Andreas Cornelis van Kuijk), known as Colonel Tom Parker, was a Dutch musical entrepreneur, best known for being Elvis Presley's manager. Born Breda, Holland, in the Netherlands, he first learned the art of the hustle as an errand boy in Dutch fairs, circuses, and carnivals. Parker entered the United States illegally when he was 20 years old. He adopted a new name and claimed to have been born in the United States. A carnival worker, he moved into music promotion in 1938, working with crooner Gene Austin, then country singers Eddy Arnold, Hank Snow, Tommy Sands and Slim Whitman. He assisted Jimmie Davis' to become governor of Louisiana. As a reward, Davis



gave him the honorary rank of "colonel" in the Louisiana State Militia. When he died, one cynical obituary writer, Serene Dominic, compared him to the "Colonel Sanders" of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame. In a Phoenix New Times article headed "Cooked the Colonel's Way - Colonel Tom Parker Has Kicked the Bucket, and the Original Recipe for Rock 'n' Roll Rotisserie Goes with Him." His fans saw him as one of the last giants and true iconoclasts of the century - a penniless immigrant who slipped into the country, befriended U.S. presidents and corporate CEOs, created both an icon and a \$4-billion business, and never let any of it get in the way of what mattered most - playing the game. Through it all, he remained as individualistic, as shrewd, rude, crude, and fun-loving as ever. At his death, he still delighted in practicing what he called the art of "snowing," the exquisitely performed act of separating people from their money, leaving them with a smile on their face and melting away before they realized what had taken place.

Lyrics - "Way Down In Florida, The Only Place To Be"

I got blue, started to go to New York town

I thought when I got down there I'd be carried right off the ground

But you're just us, unless you make a fuss, you wake up on top

So I packed my grip and took my trailer quick

Right down to trailer land, way down in Florida

That's the only place to be, right down in Florida

That's the only place to be

Where the moon shines bright every night under the coconut tree

And the sun shines for the good times, are there for you and me

Way down in Florida, that's the only place to go

Right down in Florida, where there's no ice or snow

I'm gonna buy a lot and I'll build a house and settle there for life

Way down in Florida, that's the only place to be

(Instrumental)

Way down in Florida, that's the only place to go

Right down in Florida, where there's no ice or snow

I'm gonna buy a lot and I'll build a house and settle there for life

Way down in Florida, that's the only place to be

For you and me



RCA didn't think the name Ottis was quite right, so they changed it to Slim one day while he was off fishing. Ottis never took a fancy to it, but it stuck. At one time early in his career he was called "The Smilin' Starduster," the man whose soaring falsetto could surely dust the stars. This is where the name of Slim's band, the Stardusters, originated.

Slim recorded 10 songs for RCA. The young back-up musicians used during this particular session would become stars in their own right. Anita Kerr of the famous Anita Kerr Singers performed on the piano and organ. Chester (Chet) Atkins and Jerry Byrd were on violin and guitar. Henry D. Haynes and Kenneth C. Burns (Homer and Jethro) were the musicians who played the guitar and mandolin. The RCA release was distributed on a 10" album entitled "Slim Whitman Sings and Yodels." It would be released later as a full sized album, "Birmingham Jail." The ten songs recorded for RCA have been released numerous times on 45's, 78's, tapes and in album and CD form around the world.

The first single from this session, "I'm Casting My Lasso Towards the Sky," was suggested by his wife Jerry and would become Slim's theme song, the perfect vehicle to spotlight his yodeling expertise. Slim had a range of 3 octaves and was a master yodeler who was once said to be "the only man alive who could out-sing the steel guitar." Slim had the remarkable gift of being able to slide into a beautiful falsetto break in the middle of phrases, words, and even syllables. He had the uncanny ability to know just where this beautiful technique would fit into a song. He didn't use it in every song, but when he did, it was something beautiful to hear. In addition to his incredible range and vocal technique, he was also an excellent whistler. People have been trying for four decades to peg Slim's style. Although he has been categorized as a Country Western artist, he transcended all types of music. Slim was a balladeer with a velvet smooth voice, whose choice of material was distinctive and so, too, was its presentation. He knew what the public wanted and knew how to breathe emotion and feelings into his songs whether they were recordings or live performances.



Slim Whitman's First Album

Style: Country, Year: 1954

1. I'm Casting My Lasso Towards The Sky
2. Wabash Waltz
3. There's A Rainbow In Ev'ry Teardrop
4. I'll Never Pass This Way Again
5. Birmingham Jail
6. Let's Go To Church (Next Sunday Morning)
7. Please Paint A Rose On The Garden Wall
8. Tears Can Never Drown The Flame (That's In My Heart)

LPM
3217

SLIM WHITMAN SINGS AND YODELS

LPM
3217

I'M CASTING MY LASSO TOWARDS THE SKY • BIRMINGHAM JAIL
 WABASH WALTZ • PLEASE PAINT A ROSE ON THE GARDEN WALL
 THERE'S A RAINBOW IN EV'RY TEARDROP • LET'S GO TO CHURCH
 I'LL NEVER PASS THIS WAY AGAIN • TEARS CAN NEVER DROWN THE FLAME

Slim Whitman

Looking back over Slim Whitman's career, one is impressed by the difficulties faced in choosing between music and the life of an athlete. At both singing and baseball he had won considerable fame before breaking away from the sport in 1948. Of the two, baseball had shown the most conspicuous success, which makes his pursuit of towering yodels instead of a sky-high batting average all the more remarkable.

To review briefly, Otis Whitman, Jr., was born in Tampa, Florida, on January 20, 1924. A rangy, powerful youngster, he was far ahead of his grade in sports and other activities. After graduation from high school, where he was first-string pitcher on the ball team, Slim sandwiched three bartending years in the Navy between working as fitter and boilermaker in a Tampa shipyard. He was observed by scouts while playing company ball in 1946, and signed the following year with the Tampa club in the Orange Belt League. At that time he ran up an 11-1 pitching record, batted .360 and pitched his team to a league pennant.

With the Navy, however, Slim had acquired a new pastime. Through trial and error he then learned to play the guitar and was rapidly becoming a pro in the entertainment field as well. Keeping sports apace, he was featured on the ship's weekly recreation show as a boxer one program and as a singer the next. Even today, Slim is sometimes greeted during personal appearances by old Navy buddies who like to recall how he sang aboard ship.

He first entertained on the air over Station WDAE in Tampa, also on Florida networks over WHBO and WFLA. In September 1949, he joined the Mutual Broadcasting Company and soon afterward became a featured artist on the *Louisiana Hayride*.

over KWKH in Shreveport. Six of the eight selections in this album, the first that Slim Whitman ever recorded, date from a session in Atlanta, Georgia, held during February of that year. In truth, they represent the earliest preservation of his fabulous style, so widely renowned today.

The importance of yodeling is shown in Slim's theme song, *I'm Casting My Lasso Towards the Sky*, which opens the album. More country-ified in feeling, though still marked by great vocal flexibility and range, is the *Wabash Waltz*. Next comes the traditional favorite *Birmingham Jail*, another rendition with top-notch instrumental backing by the RCA Victor Country All-Stars.

Something different is offered in *Let's Go to Church* and *There's a Rainbow in Ev'ry Teardrop*, recorded in Nashville during March 1950, with guitar and the Hammond organ accompaniment of Anita Kerr. The first is a duet featuring Slim Whitman with Dolores Watson, star of the *Grand Ole Opry*. In singing about rainbows, gold mines in the sunset and the like, Slim tears us to another Western scene, this one composed in part by himself.

Returning to the Atlanta group, we hear *I'll Never Pass This Way Again*. The Whitman touch has some fine backing in Jethro Burns' mandolin and the guitars of Chet Atkins and Homer Haynes. They are joined by Bob Ross, currently a noted "country" manager, who takes the spoken lead in *Please Paint a Rose on the Garden Wall*. As the brilliant singing of Slim Whitman is summed up in *Tears Can Never Drown the Flame*, we're left with a very special kind of afterglow—a feeling of having experienced one of the truly rare vocal sounds that "country" music has to offer.

C. E. C.

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Hear These Other Country and Western Hits on RCA Victor Records:

Tennessee Jamboree Old Kandler (Grandpa Jones); But I Love You Just the Same (Johnny and Jack); Georgia Camp Meeting (Chet Atkins); Sudden Moments (Hank Snow); My Empty Arms (Ken Marvin); Jealous Hearted Me (Minnie Pearl); Borrowed Diamonds (Johnny and Jack); My Religion's Not Old-Fashioned (But It's Real Genuine) (Hank Snow) LPM 3192

Country Classics—Foe Wee King Tennessee Waltz; Texas Tom; Slow Poke; Bonaparte's Retreat; Kentucky Waltz; Ten Gallon Boogie; Silver and Gold; Bull Fiddle Boogie LPM 3028

Country Classics—Hank Snow I'm Moving On; Down the Trail of Achin' Hearts; The Rhumba Boogie; Bluebird Island; The Golden Rocket; Unwashed Sign Upon Your Heart; Music Makin' Mama from Memphis; Marriage Vow LPM 3026

Country Classics—Eddy Arnold Boogie of Rome; It's a Sin; That's How Much I Love You; Don't Rob Another Man's Candle; I'll Hold You in My Heart; A Heart Full of Love; Annapolis; Tennessee Baby LPM 3027

LPM 3217

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Printed in U. S. A.

Slim Whitman's First Album – Back Cover

Lewis Robert Chudd (July 11, 1911 – June 15, 1998) was an American record label and radio executive who founded Imperial Records in 1946. The record company was influential in the development of rock and roll, with a roster of musicians including Fats Domino, Slim Whitman, Chris Kenner, Sandy Nelson, and Ricky Nelson. "I'm Casting My Lasso Towards the Sky" caught his attention. Imperial soon signed Slim to a contract, an affiliation that would span 27 years, producing millions of sales and numerous hit records on the Imperial label.



Slim's first major chart buster was another song selected by Jerry, an operetta number written by Bob Nolan, leader of the Sons of the Pioneers. The song was "Love Song of the Waterfall." Slim took a lot of criticism from the band when he announced he was going to record this song. Never being one to take the conventional way of doing things, he decided early in his career to sing what he thought the people would enjoy hearing. He refused the truck driving, drinking, cheating songs and opted instead for the romantic ballads, love songs, and western songs that had proven their worth through the test of time. Slim strongly believed in doing recordings that he "wouldn't be ashamed to sing in church."



Sons Of the Pioneers - 1949



"Love Song of the Waterfall" is a song written by Bob Nolan. This became Slim Whitman's first hit for Imperial in 1952. He recorded it, along with "My Love Is Growing Stale", "Bandera Waltz", and "End of the World", in November 1951 at radio station KWKH. Recently signed to Imperial Records, his day job as a postman prevented him from traveling to California. Slim turned to Bob Sullivan and said "Sully, can you cut me a record?" The answer was that the session could only take place when KWKH was off air. In November 1951 those four songs were recorded one morning. Slim had recorded before (1950) at RCA without success. But from this session the opening song, a Bob Nolan composition, gave him his first Top Ten record in the Billboard country chart (May 1952). Two months later another KWKH recording, "Indian Love Call," went to number two and became a million-seller, heralding Whitman's arrival as a major recording artist.

Love Song Of the Waterfall

Ooh, do-do-do-ooh-ooh-do-doo-ooh-ooh

A love song of the waterfall, ooh-ooh

I hear through virgin timbertop

The love song of a waterfall, ooh-ooh

And there in May rose through the trees

A love song born upon the breeze, ooh-ooh

Plunging over rugged rocks

Hear the water slide

Bound to be where you are

Dear one, here am I

This is heaven's mating call

A love song of the waterfall, ooh-ooh

Ooh, do-do-do-ooh-ooh-do-doo-ooh-ooh

A love song of the waterfall, ooh-ooh

Ooh, do-do-do-ooh-ooh-do-doo-ooh-ooh

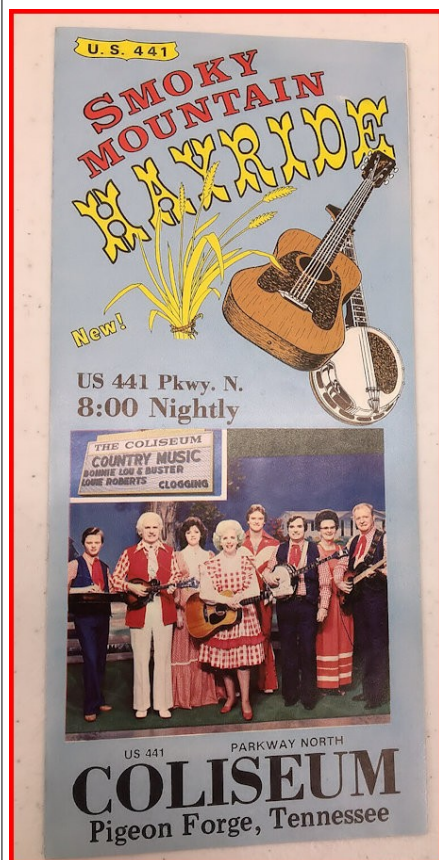
A love song of the waterfall

Ooh, do-do-do-ooh-ooh-do-doo-ooh-ooh

Ooh-ooh



On August 20, 1949, Slim made his premiere national radio appearance on the Mutual Network's, "Smokey Mountain Hayride." He was hailed as "the new sensation of the folk music world." Within two weeks, he was the star attraction in a new show called "Slim Whitman and the Lightcrust Dough-boys." In May 1950 Slim Whitman became a member of the Louisiana Hayride. Hank Williams, who was leaving the Hayride at the time, advised Slim, "Just go out there and give 'em some yodelin'." The pay was eighteen dollars a week and left a lot to be desired, so Slim took a job as a postman in Shreveport, Louisiana, to feed his family, which by this time included his daughter Sharron Carlene.



It was while with the Louisiana Hayride that Slim and his steel guitar player, Hoot Rains, created what would become a major part of the Slim Whitman sound, the "singing guitar."

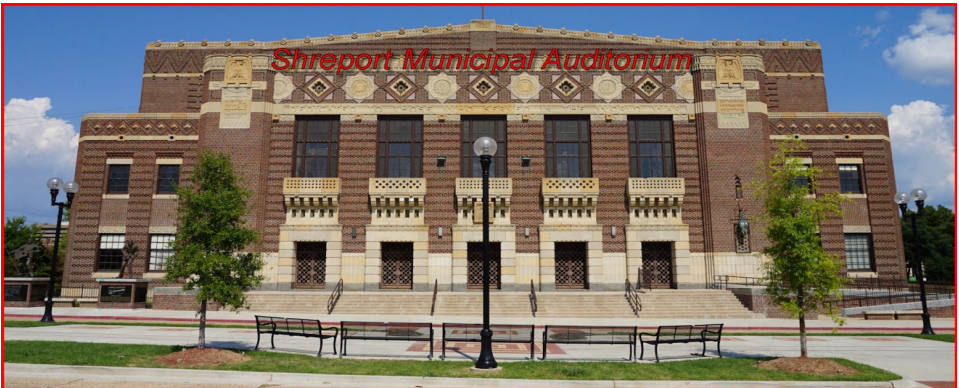
The soaring notes of the steel guitar can be heard in many of Slim's early songs. It all started by accident in the classic, "Love Song of the Waterfall."

One night while performing the song, Hoot overshot a note and sent it soaring skyward. Slim liked what he heard and worked this unusual new sound into his songs.

They called this new technique "shooting arrows," and this new term would be used by steel guitarists around the world. They perfected the new sound and introduced the "singing guitar" on the Louisiana Hayride to thunderous approval.



Slim Whitman at the Louisiana Hayride

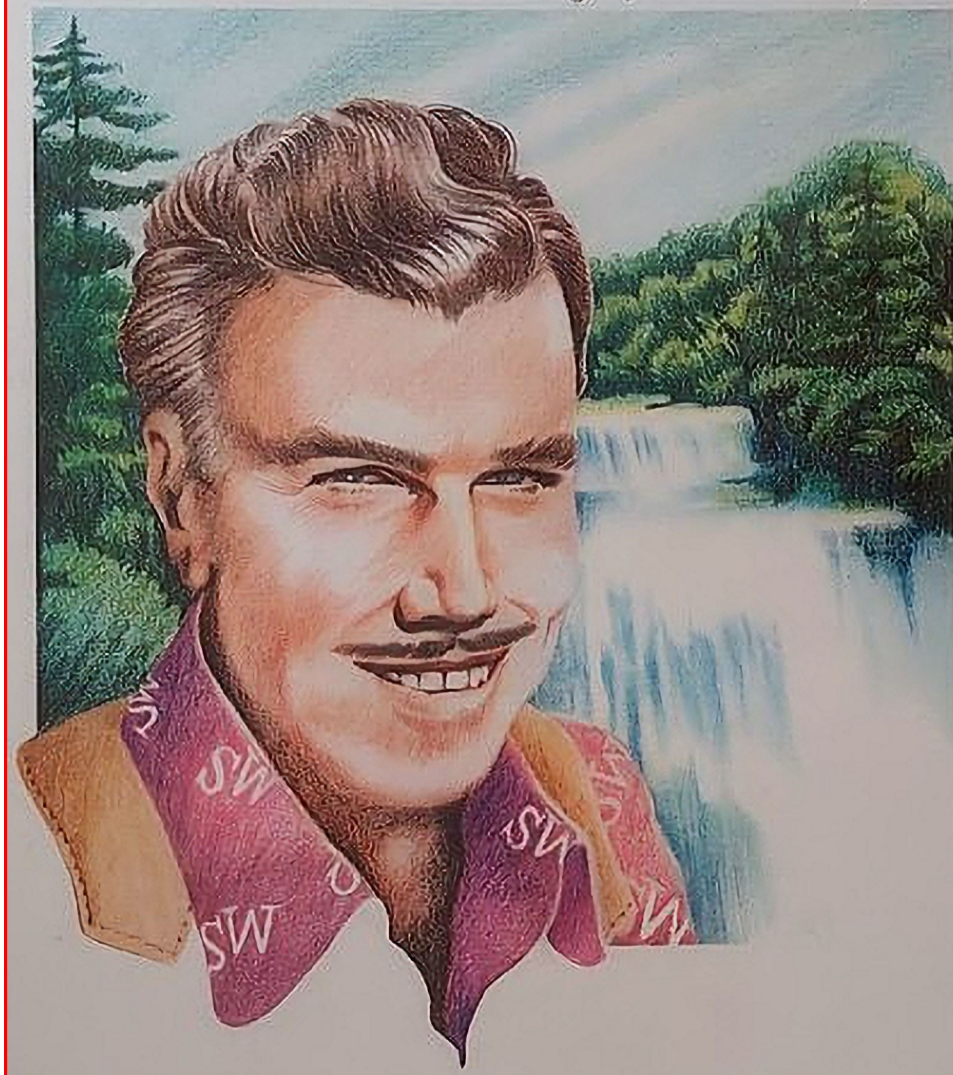


Shreveport Louisiana Municipal Auditorium



"Love Song of the Waterfall" was released in 1951 and shot up the charts to the number two position. That song was soon followed by the most popular Country Western record of the year and Slim's first million seller, "Indian Love Call." With the smashing success of this release, Slim asked for and was granted a leave of absence from the post office. Next came "Keep It a Secret" and "China Doll" followed by hit after hit.

Slim Whitman Love Song of the Waterfall





Indian Love Call from the 1936 MGM musical *Rose Marie* starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy. Composed by Rudolf Friml and with lyrics by Otto Harbach and Oscar Hammerstein II.

Indian Love Call

Oo-oo-oo-oo, oo-oo-oo-oo

When I'm calling you

Oo-oo-oo-oo, oo-oo-oo-oo

Will you answer too?

Oo-oo-oo-oo, oo-oo-oo-oo

That means I offer my love to you to be your own

If you refuse me I will be blue, waiting all alone

But if when you hear my love call ringing clear

Oo-oo-oo-oo, oo-oo-oo-oo

And I hear your answering echo so dear

Oo-oo-oo-oo, oo-oo-oo-oo

Then I will know our love will become true

You'll belong to me, I'll belong to you

Then I will know our love will come true

You'll belong to me, I'll belong to you



Keep It A Secret

C F

If you see my darling with somebody new

G7 C

Keep it a secret whatever you do

F C A7

Why should you tell me and break my poor heart

D7 G7

Then foolish pride would just keep us apart

C F

If you see my darling in some rendezvous

G7 C

Painting the town with a girl he once knew

F C A7

Pay no attention and just let it be

D7 G7 C

But keep it a secret from me

F

If you see my darling in some rendezvous

G7 C

Painting the town with a girl he once knew

F C A7

Pay no attention and just let it be

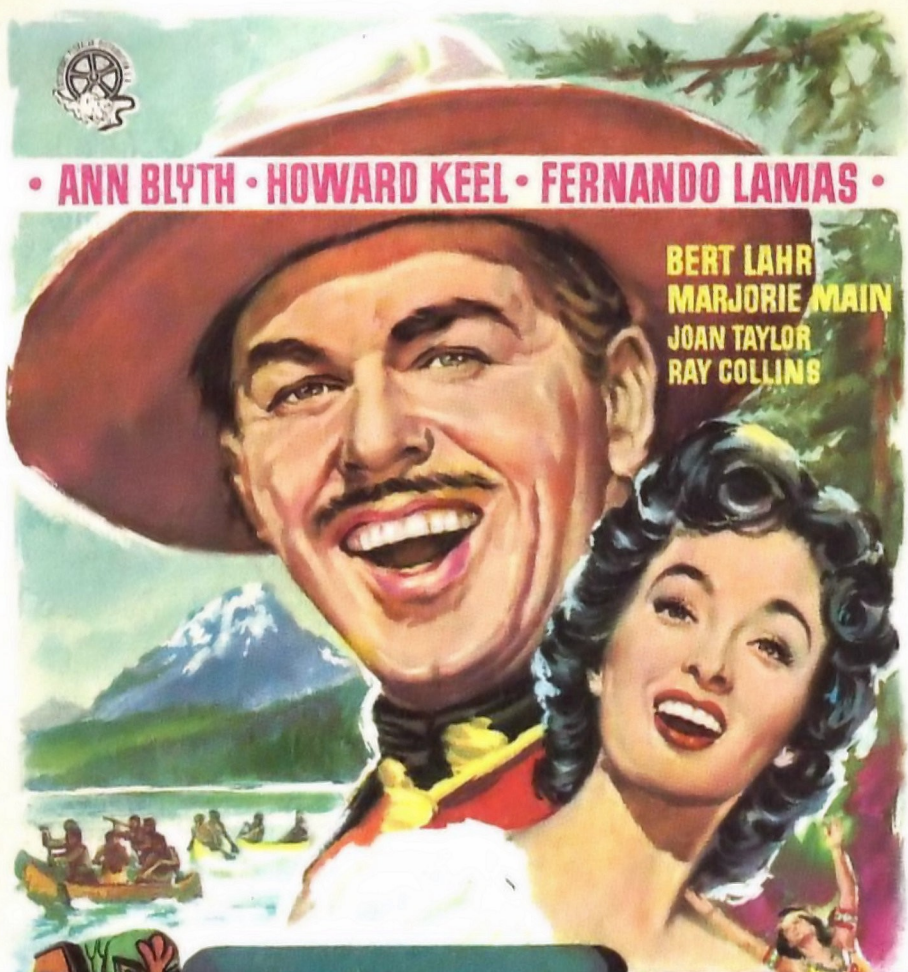
D7 G7 C

But keep it a secret from me



• ANN BLYTH • HOWARD KEEL • FERNANDO LAMIAS •

BERT LAHR
MARJORIE MAIN
JOAN TAYLOR
RAY COLLINS



ROSE MARIE

EN GLORIOSO COLOR

GUION DE RONALD MILLAR Y GEORGE FROESCHEL.
BASADO EN LA OPERETA "ROSE MARIE"
LIBRO Y CANCIONES DE OTTO A. HARBACH Y
OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
MUSICA DE RUDOLF FRIMLY HERDE Y STOTHART

Producción y Dirigida por **MERVYN LE ROY**

CINEMA SCOPE

SONIDO ESTEREOFONICO
PERSPECTA

Rose Marie

C G7 C

Oh Rose my Rose Marie

C

Oh Rose Marie I love you

G7 C

I'm always dreaming of you

F G7

No matter what I do I can't forget you

D7 G7

Sometimes I wish that I'd never met you

C

And yet if I should lose you

E Am

T'would mean my very life to me

F C

Of all the queens that ever lived I'd choose you

F G7 C

To rule me my Rose Marie

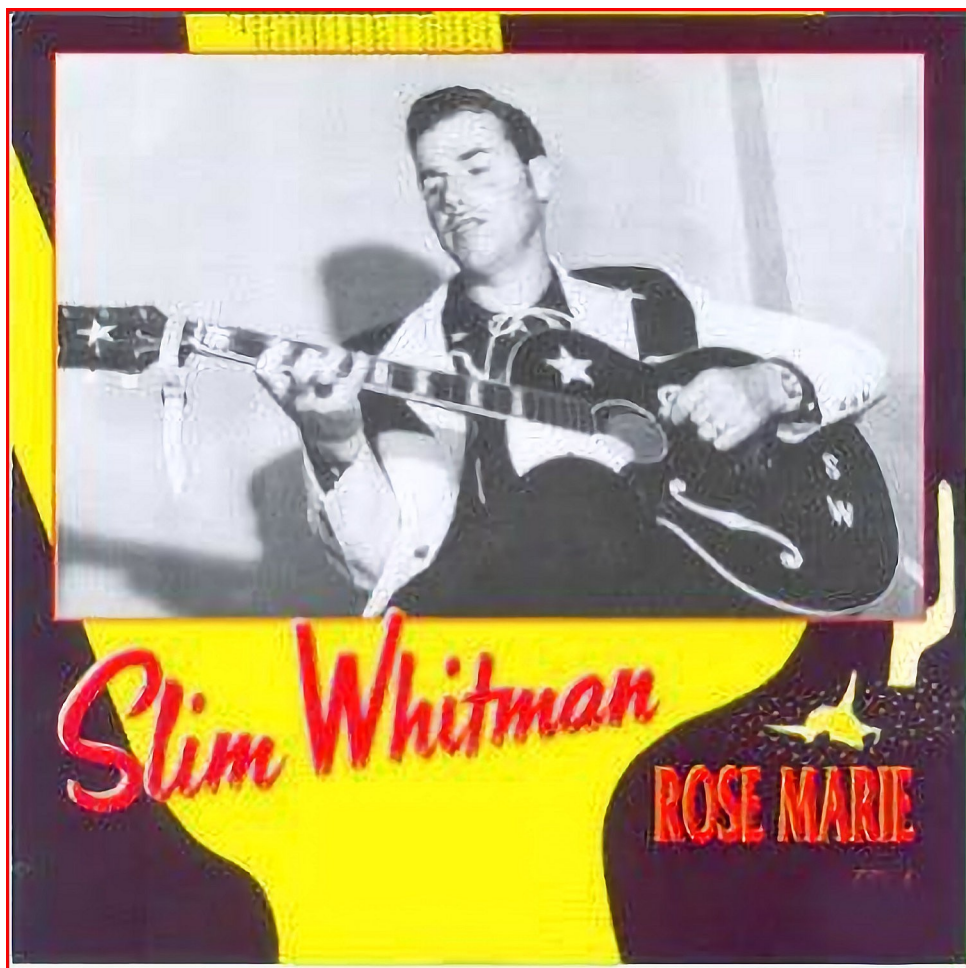
F C

Of all the queens that ever lived I'd choose you

F G7 C

To rule me my Rose Marie

In 1954 Slim recorded this second American million seller, "Rose Marie." With the singing steel guitar and smooth falsetto breaks, it quickly climbed to the top of the charts. A promoter managed to have it played to the English people via a radio station in Luxembourg. It sold an additional million copies there in record time and topped the charts in the number one position for 11 consecutive weeks from July 29th through October 7th, 1955. This record-breaking feat was held by Slim for an incredible 36 years! Slim recorded five different renditions of this great song over the years. It also became a million seller in Australia along with "Indian Love Call" and "China Doll".



On three occasions the play has been made into a movie: Rose-Marie (1928 film), Rose Marie (1936 film), the most commercially successful, starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy on Rose Marie (1954 film).

MOSS **Empire**

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FIRST VISIT TO BRITAIN of
AMERICA'S FAMOUS WESTERN SINGING STAR

SLIM WHITMAN



WHOSE RECORDING OF
"ROSE MARIE"

SOLD 1 MILLION COPIES IN BRITAIN ... IN ONLY 2 MONTHS!

HE SINGS TOP-GUN
 SONGS which
 "WOMAN LOVE CALL"
 "YOUNG BOAT"
 "BEAUTIFUL DELAWARE"
 "TUMBLING"
 "TUMBLING"

**GEORGE
MARTIN**
 RADIO & TV COMEDY STAR

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FRENCH**
 BALANCING ON THE BRIDGE

**TOMMY
LOCKY**
 SPECIAL COMEDIAN

MILTON WOODWARD
 PRESENTS THE
**WONDER
BAR**
 WITH
 MILLICENT COOPER
 OVER 40 CHANGING SCENES
 GIVEN AWAY AT
 EVERY PERFORMANCE

ANITA
 AUGUST

**LANE
TWINS**
 BAND TRAP

**MALLINI
BROS**
 COMEDY
 ACTS

STARS
WHO HAVE
PERFORMED
AT THE
PALLADIUM

THE LONDON

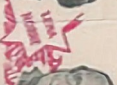
Proprietors: MISS LUTHER, LTD.
General: FRANK LITTLE, Managing Director, VAI PARNELL

MONDAY, MARCH 5th, 1956 FOR TWO WEEKS

1. LONDON PALLADIUM ORCHESTRA
under the Direction of ERIC ROGERS
2. THE GEORGE CARDEN DANCERS
3. TOMMY TRINDER
INTRODUCES THE PROGRAMME
4. THE FLYING DE PAULS
Whirlwind Tumblers
5. BOB HAMMOND
with his Feathered Friends
6. PAGE & BRAY
Continental Dance Stylists
7. THE THREE MONARCHS
Haygate Harmonica Virtuosses
8. THE FAMOUS PARISIENNE
PATACHOU

INTERMISSION

PULLY LICENSED BARS IN ALL PARTS OF THE THEATRE
Snacks, Tea and Coffee served in the Palm Court and Upper Circle Bar
SMOKING PERMITTED



THE LONDON PALLADIUM occupies the site of the former residence of the Duke of Devonshire and Earl of Ashbourne. In 1871-86, the reconstructed house housed the famous Hengler's Circus. The present building completed in 1910 and named The London Palladium played all the great names of the day. Later because of a variety of reasons, the theatre was closed for some years. The present policy of reconstruction was started in 1948 and completed in 1954. The London Palladium is now the finest Music Hall in the world.

PALLADIUM

6.15 TWICE NIGHTLY 8.45
MATINEE: SATURDAY at 2.40

PROGRAMME—(Continued)

9. LONDON PALLADIUM ORCHESTRA
10. THE GEORGE CARDEN DANCERS
11. GHEZZI BROTHERS
Fall Guys
12. ARTHUR WORSLEY with Charlie Brown
"It's in the Bag"
13. FIRST TIME HERE
AMERICA'S FAMOUS
WESTERN SINGING STAR
SLIM
WHITMAN



First Aid Facilities in this Theatre are provided by
British Red Cross workers who give first aid instruction.
NEAREST HOSPITAL—HOSPITALS IN THIS THEATRE IS ROYAL
NORTH-SURREY HOSPITAL IN THE DISTRICT OF KINGS ROAD
ON SALE IN THE AUDITORIUM
LYONS DELICIOUS ICE CREAM, NEW ORANGEADE "PEGGY"
and WELL-KNOWN BRANDS OF CHOCOLATES

In accordance with the requirements of the London County Council
[1]—The public may leave the seat at the performance or at the end of the performance.
[2]—The public may leave the seat at the performance or at the end of the performance.
[3]—The public may leave the seat at the performance or at the end of the performance.



STARS
WHO HAVE
PERFORMED
AT THE
PALLADIUM



On July 23, 1955, Slim Whitman joined the Grand Ole Opry, but the massive excitement generated by "Rose Marie" and the hits that followed could not be ignored, and he was off on what was to be the first of many tours of the United Kingdom. Slim was the first American country artist to play the prestigious London Palladium in 1956. Tickets were sold out 7 weeks in advance of his two week appearance. It was "China Doll" that brought forth spontaneous standing ovations at every performance.

China Doll

C C7 F
 I'm tired of crying and all your lying
 C G7
 That's why I'm buying a China doll
 C C7 F
 Her eyes are bluer her faults are fewer
 C G7 C
 Her lips are truer my China doll
 G7
 I'd rather have a doll of clay
 C
 That I could call my own
 D7
 Than someone else just like you
 G7
 With a heart of stone
 C
 She'll never leave me
 C7 F
 She'll not deceive me
 C
 And never grieve me
 G7 C
 My China doll
 G7 C
 No tears or sorrow
 C7 F
 No sad tomorrow
 C
 No one can borrow
 G7 C
 My China doll
 G7
 I'd rather have a doll of clay
 C
 That I could call my own
 D7
 Than someone else just like you
 G7
 With a heart of stone
 C
 She'll never leave me
 C7 F
 She'll not deceive me
 C
 And never grieve me
 G7 C
 My China doll



Slim's only motion picture appearance was made at the Palladium in a movie titled "Disc Jockey Jamboree." They filmed Slim performing "Unchain Your Heart" and included it in the movie. Slim's popularity in England earned him number one albums and singles time and time again.

His "Red River Valley" album established Slim as Britain's number 1 country singer. The album secured the number one position on the Pop album chart over rock groups Abba and Queen, which held second and third. This was just one of many releases that would cross over to the pop charts.

The British love affair with Slim spans nearly 5 decades. Slim was voted international male vocalist of the year in England in 1978, 1979, and 1980. His concert tours were always sold out weeks in advance. The UK established a "Slim Whitman Appreciation Day."



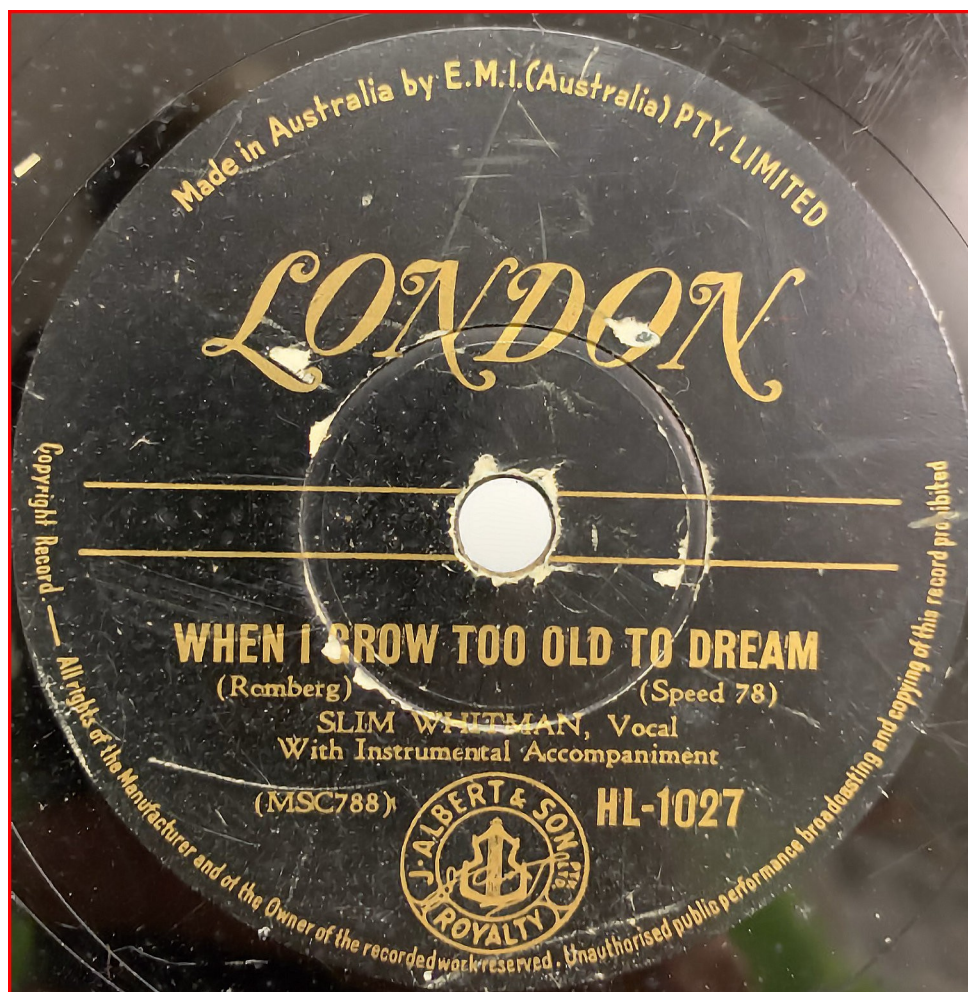
Jamboree, known as Disc Jockey Jamboree in the United Kingdom, is a 1957 American rock and roll film directed by Roy Lockwood. Its story is about a boy and girl, Pete Porter and Honey Wynn (played respectively by Paul Carr and Freda Holloway), who become overnight sensations as a romantic singing duo who run into trouble when their squabbling managers (Kay Medford and Bob Pastene), try to turn them into solo acts. Against this backdrop in cameo performances appear some of the biggest names of rock and roll in the 1950s lip-syncing to their recordings. Jamboree was essentially a music film in the manner of music videos that followed many years later on MTV where the story was secondary to the musical performances, with the amateurish acting becoming less relevant than the musical performances. However, this movie is of historical importance due to the performances by various musical acts. Stars included 18 recording artists, including Slim Whitman who gathered a tremendous following in Europe, who performs "Unchain My Heart."

In 1965 Slim did an extensive tour of South Africa. While there he recorded a few albums that have long since become rare collector's items. One contains two gospel songs that Slim sings in the Afrikaans' language.



- A1 Slim Whitman—That's How The Yodel Was Born 2:53
- A2 Lester Fry—Westwindjie 2:23
- A3 Slim Whitman—Reminiscing 3:07
- A4 Virginia Lee—Boerenootjietjie 2:16
- A5 Slim Whitman & Virginia Lee—Tennessee Yodel Polka 2:14
- A6 Slim Whitman—You're Nobody's Darling 2:12
- B1 Slim Whitman—Sunrise 2:30
- B2 Lester Fry—Tahiti 1:45
- B3 Slim Whitman—I Can't Stop Loving You 2:10
- B4 Virginia Lee—The Blue Beat 1:53
- B5 Slim Whitman &, Virginia Lee—Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain 2:20
- B6 Slim Whitman—Cattle Call 2:20

Slim toured Germany and made many visits to Australia and New Zealand. EMI records in Australia presented Slim with two double platinum records.



As Slim entered the 60's, Country Music took a back seat to rock 'n' roll. Just when it appeared that it was starting to slow down the Beatles hit the air-waves in a big way. The market was all wrapped up with the Beatles and the Beach Boys and didn't seem to have time for a yodeling country artist. So during the next two decades Slim concentrated on recording. He did Irish songs, love songs, yodeling songs, gospel, Christmas, and country songs. Slim continued to make the charts with gems like "Cattle Call," "Serenade," "Tumbling Tumble Weeds," "More Than Yesterday," and "Twelfth of Never" just to mention a few. During the 60's and 70's, thirty-six of Slim's best albums were re-released. In all he would record 42 albums while with Imperial/United Artists.

In 1979, Suffolk Marketing wisely decided to do a TV album featuring 20 of Slim's songs. Having seen the countless number of record pitches flooding the airways, Slim was not too impressed; so when they asked him to do a commercial, he did not exactly jump at the opportunity. Byron and Jerry talked him into it, and the rest is TV marketing history. The company pressed 5,000 records and ran a limited number of commercials in a test market. "All My Best" sold 1,200,000 albums in the first few weeks, an achievement never done before by any recording artist or group! It eventually sold 4,000,000 copies making Slim Whitman the biggest selling record star in TV music history.

The Washington Post - By Richard Harrington August 15, 1981

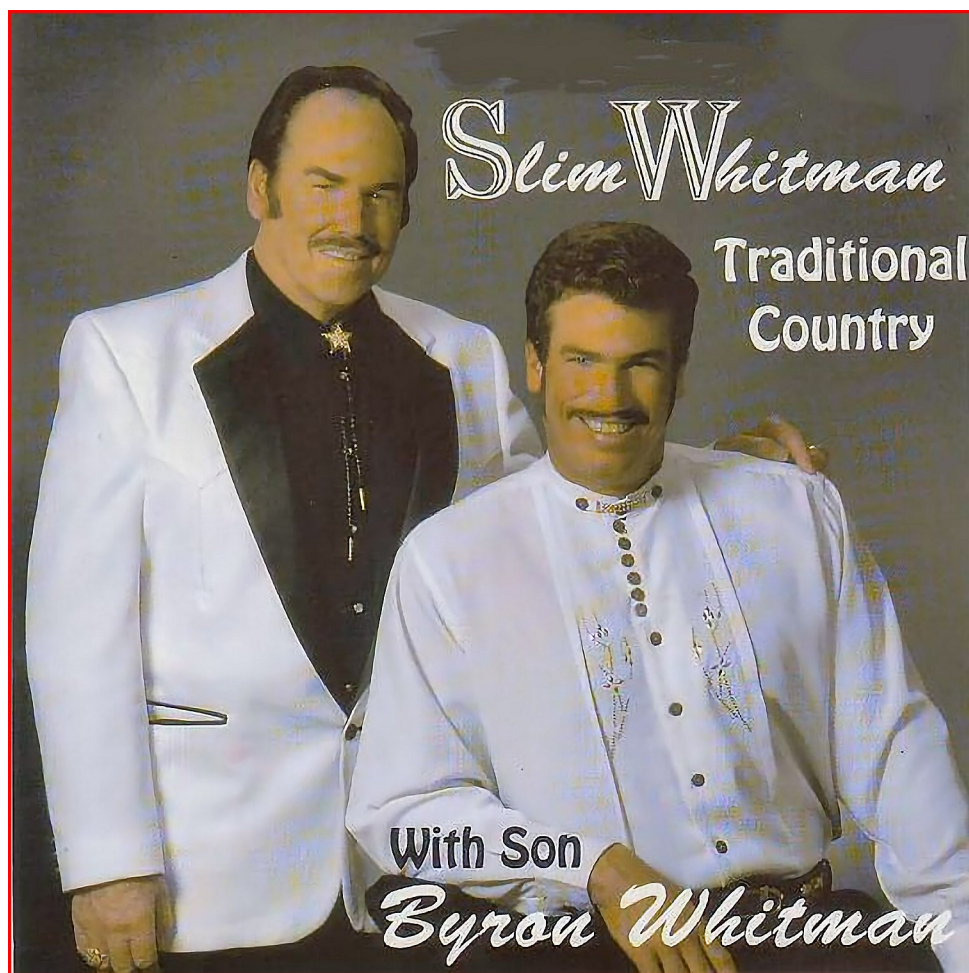
The television commercial is inescapable: Slim Whitman stands there, bushy eyebrows and sideburns framing an old-fashioned face. The lights gleam off a black suit covered with rhinestone studs while he sings snippets of songs in a high, clear tenor with rich vibrato. The songs are old-fashioned, too -- "Love Song of the Waterfall," "Indian Love Call," "Rose Marie," "I'm Casting My Lasso to the Sky." Since the ad promises it's "unavailable in any store," 2 million people (so far) have sent in \$8.98 to Suffolk Marketing, which had a hard time convincing Whitman to let them do the album in the first place.

"I wasn't too excited about it," Whitman recalls with a laugh. "My son Byron convinced me, said 'You've got nothing to lose, you're not doing anything in the United States anyways.' " Which was a bit of an understatement, at that. Whitman, who performed last night at the Prince George's County Fair, had been immensely popular in the '50s when he synthesized two elements into his own unique style.

First, his tenor frequently gave in to yodels, a tradition that had begun with Elton Britt, Montana Slim, Jimmy Rodgers and Hank Williams, and had all but died out with Whitman. More importantly, Whitman adopted country music songs from Broadway, Ireland and Spain; in fact, his repertoire was eclectic to an extreme -- religious songs, sentimental love ballads, cowboy songs. "I was bringing the big songs down to the people's size," Whitman explains.

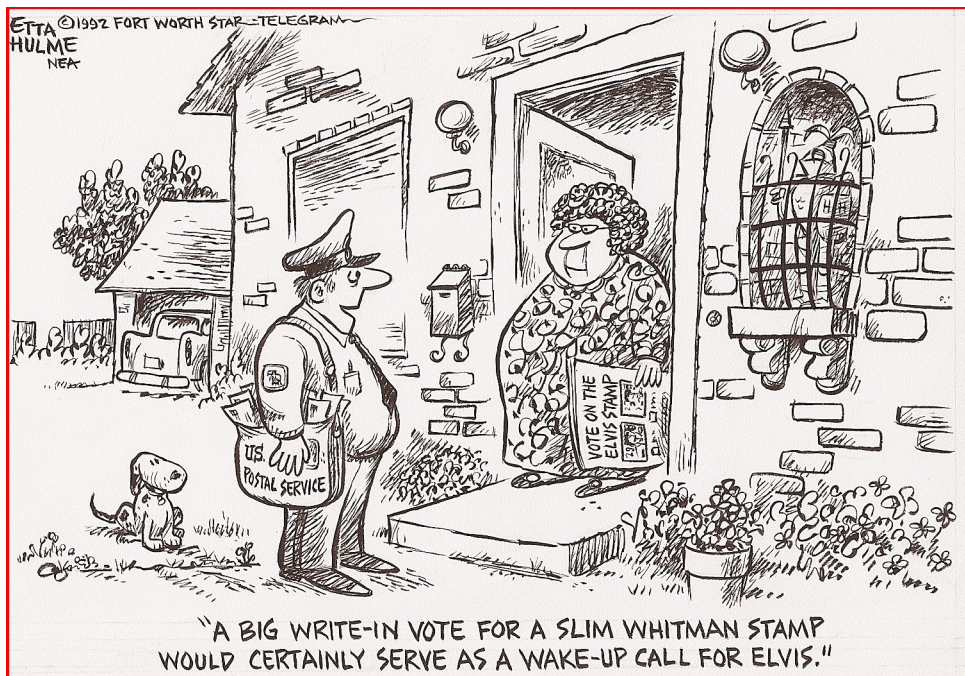
"1972 was the last date I played in America . . . until this came along," he says of the ubiquitous television commercial that brought Otis Dewey Whitman back into the hearts of the American consumer with a collection of songs that had made him a huge star in England, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa during the late '60s and '70s. America, apparently, had forgotten him after a career spanning the late '40s to early '60s. One of the first stars of country-western music had to find new countries for his music -- until this.

In 1980 Slim signed with Cleveland International (Epic) Records. It was during this period that he hit the charts again with a song that suited his style to a tea. The song "When" climbed the charts to the number 14 position. He also did "That Silver Haired Daddy of Mine", "I Remember You", and a beautiful duet with Byron, "Four Walls." During his four years with Epic he would do five albums.



Slim Whitman's music has been an influence on three of the biggest rock 'n' roll artists of this century. Elvis Presley and Slim were good friends touring together in the mid-fifties. Elvis made his stage debut on the Slim Whitman Show in Memphis, Tennessee, and they toured together. At the time Slim was making \$500 a show and Elvis \$50. One time Slim made the mistake of loaning Elvis his coat. They all traveled together between small towns going from show to show by car.

It was during one of these trips that Elvis traveled in his stage clothes and then decided his jacket was too wrinkled. Somehow he talked Slim out of his jacket. It was at this point in Elvis' career that he took a notion to throw something out to the audience. Slim said, "That's the last time I loaned him any of my clothes."



Paul McCartney of the Beatles was impressed by Slim's left-handed guitar style and vocal range. Michael Jackson was a fan and hoped to meet Slim in person one day. He was especially fond of Slim's rendition of "I Remember You."

Slim's music has touched many peoples lives deeply. Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of World War II, was tormented with memories of the war and had trouble sleeping. The only thing that would totally relax him and help him to sleep was listening to albums from his Slim Whitman collection. A personal appearance didn't go by that someone didn't tell Slim that they were near the end of their rope when they heard his beautiful voice on the TV commercial, ordered the record, and his music gave them the will to pull through. This is why Slim spent so much time with his fans. He could be found, often into the wee hours of the morning after his shows signing autographs and having pictures taken with his fans. He loved his fans and tried to meet as many as he could. He was even known to take his guitar into the parking lot to sing to people who couldn't get into one of his performances.

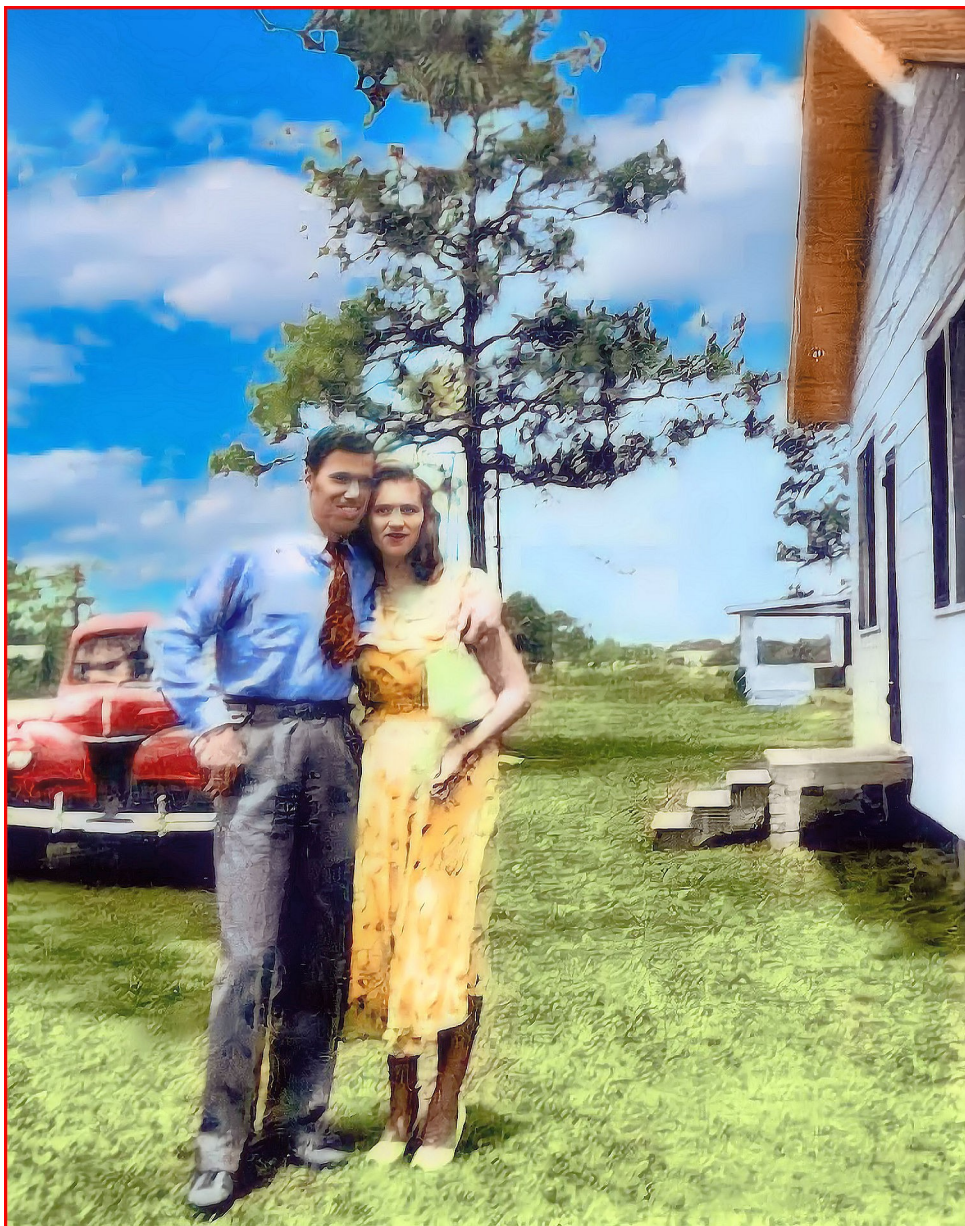
Over the years Slim had received hundreds of awards and had numerous honors bestowed upon him, including a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He had a tulip and daffodil named after him in Holland. He had a new species of Wasp named after him too. He has sold over 70,000,000 records around the world, and in his music room could be seen a most impressive array of wall-to-wall gold, platinum, and double-platinum records. He recorded over 600 individual songs including the different versions of some, which can be found on 155 albums, CD's and hundreds of 78's, 45's and cassettes. His fan club, "The Slim Whitman International Appreciation Society" began in 1970 and disbanded in 1996 and was one of the largest and oldest in the world incorporating England, Holland, Australia, and the United States.



Slim Whitman always had something going on somewhere in the world. The last three of Slim's Australian EMI albums all made the charts. Slim and son Byron's duet album "Magic Moments" hit the number 12 position.

Slim's music saved the world from Martian invaders in the Tim Burden sci-fi spoof "Mars Attacks." This was the fourth movie that spotlighted Slim's music. The first being the 1957 black and white Rock 'n Roll classic "Disc Jockey Jamboree," which features Slim singing at the London Palladium. Next came the movie "Who'll Stop the Rain." The third one was "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

It has been said that Slim Whitman's music is like a mountain stream, sparkling in the sunlight, reliant through the changing seasons, always clear and friendly — a sanctuary to escape to and quietly reflect on things in life that really matter. Slim Whitman is truly an international living legend of Country Music.



Slim and Geraldine “Jerry” Whitman







Middleburg Methodist Church Cemetery, Middleburg, Florida

PLOT - Sec. 7, Space 159

Note on Jerry - Alma Geraldine "Jerry" Whitman, age 84, passed away on February 16, 2009. Jerry was born in the state of Kansas and her family moved to Middleburg, Florida when she was one year old. She and Slim got married in 1941. Slim joined the Navy in 1943. They had a daughter, Sharron, then. The whole time he was in the Navy, money was sent to her. She saved that money and bought their first house, thinking of their future while he was away. "We never make decisions without consulting with each other. It's always, we and not I."



About the Author

Larry W Jones is a songwriter, having penned over 7,700 song lyrics. Published in 22 volumes of island themed, country, cowboy, western and bluegrass songs. The entire assemblage is the world's largest collection of lyrics written by an individual songwriter. As a wrangler on the "Great American Horse Drive", at age 68, he assisted in driving 800 half-wild horses 62 miles in two days, from Winter pasture grounds in far NW Colorado to the Big Gulch Ranch outside of Craig Colorado. His book, "The Oldest Greenhorn", chronicles the adventures and perils in earning the "Gate-to-Gate" trophy belt buckle the hard way.



Other books published by Larry W Jones:

1. A Squirrel Named Julie and The Fox Ridge Fox
2. The Painting Of A Dream
3. The Boy With Green Thumbs and The Wild Tree Man
4. Red Cloud – Chief Of the Sioux
5. Spotted Tail – The Orphan Negotiator
6. Little Crow – The Fur Trapper's Patron
7. Chief Gall – The Strategist
8. Crazy Horse – The Vision Quest Warrior
9. Sitting Bull - The Powder River Power
10. Rain-In-The-Face – The Setting Sun Brave
11. Two Strike – The Lakota Club Fighter
12. Chief American Horse – The Oglala Councilor
13. Chief Dull Knife – The Sharp-Witted Cheyenne
14. Chief Joseph – Retreat From Grande Ronde
15. The Oregon Trail Orphans
16. Kids In Bloom Volume 1
17. Kids In Bloom Volume 2
18. Kids Animal Pals Volume 1
19. Kids Animal Pals Volume 2
20. Bird Kids Volume 1
21. Bird Kids Volume 2
22. Garden Kids Volume 1
23. Garden Kids Volume 2
24. Folklore Of Jackson Hole
25. Henny Penny Meets Chicken Little
26. Delightful Stories For Children
27. The 1825 Voyage Of HMS Blonde
28. Illustrated Stories For Young Children
29. Sea Sagas – Perilous Voyages
30. Songbirds And Their Stories
31. The Jungle Book – Mowgli's Brothers
32. The Jungle Book – Kaa's Hunting
33. The Jungle Book – Tiger! Tiger!
34. The Jungle Book – The White Seal
35. The Jungle Book – Rikki-Tikki-Tavi
36. The Jungle Book – Toomai of the Elephants
37. The Jungle Book – Her Majesty's Servants
38. The Oldest Greenhorn – Second Edition
39. Life On The Mississippi
40. Songs Of The Seas
41. Treasure Island
42. The Wind In The Willows

Other books published by Larry W Jones:

43. Alice In Wonderland
44. Peter Rabbit
45. The Secret Garden
46. Heidi
47. Cynthia Ann Parker – Comanche Bride
48. Black Beauty
49. The Call Of the Wild
50. Uncle Remus and Brer Rabbit
51. Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea
52. The Goodnight-Loving Trail – A Chuckwagon Saga
53. Ode To Toulee – From Gosling To Goose
54. China Clipper – Floatplanes Of Pan Am
55. Images Of Old England
56. Range Of A Cowboy
57. Clipper Ships – Emigrants Passage
58. Clipper Ships – Wool and Wealth
59. Clipper Ships – Iron Maidens
60. Clipper Ships – The Kiwi Connection
61. Chief War Eagle – Peacemaker Of The Sioux
62. Ohiyesa – From Sioux To Surgeon
63. Indian Ways Of Yore – Fables And Fact
64. Heritage Of An Indian Boy
65. Daniel Boone On the Cumberland Trail
66. Davy Crockett Of the Wild Frontier
67. Jim Bowie – Life Legacy Legend
68. Sam Houston – Tennessee To Texas
69. Shackleton – Polar Quest
70. Death Valley Days – The Manly Trail
71. Pocahontas – Powhatan Princess
72. Tecumseh – The Roaming Cherokee
73. Hunga Tonga – The Volcano!
74. Otaheite 1769 – Log Of Captain Cook
75. How Texas Got Its Shape
76. First Nations – Eskimo
77. Pontiac and the Ottawa Wars
78. Last Of The Wampanoag
79. Osceola And The Seminole Sorrow
80. Squanto – The Patuxet Pilgrim
81. Wreck Of the Charles Eaton
82. Courthouses Of Texas
83. Mother Goose Rhymes – The Complete Collection
84. English Gardens – The Estates

Other books published by Larry W Jones:

85. Log Of Captain Bligh – Mutiny and Survival
86. Four Voyages Of Christopher Columbus
87. Expedition Of Cabeza de Vaca
88. Expedition Of Hernando de Soto
89. Expedition Of Coronado
90. Billy the Grizzly
91. Kidnapped – The Inheritance
92. Animal Friends Of the Timberlands
93. Chief Red Jacket – The Orator
94. Chief Black Hawk – Sauk Clan Leader
95. The Pied Piper Of Hamelin
96. How Polynesia Became French
97. Texas Poisonous Snakes
98. Rocky Mountain Jim From Muggins Gulch
99. Buffalo Bill When The West Was Wild
100. Buffalo Jones – Saving the Yellowstone Bison
101. Calamity Jane – Woman Of the Western Plains
102. How To Tie Knots
103. Chief Manuelito – NAVAJO
104. Annie Oakley – Rimfire Cowgirl
105. Philippine History – From Magellan To Mindanao
106. Expedition Of Sieur de LaSalle
107. Comanche Moon Of Blanco Canyon
108. Rip Van Winkle – The Sleepy Dutchman
109. Michelangelo – Renaissance Man
110. Baldwin - King Of Locomotives
111. Winnie-The-Pooh and Friends He Knew
112. The Blue Lagoon Saga
113. Molly Finney - Capture Slavery Freedom
114. John Jacob Astor - Business Master
115. Mask Of The Lone Ranger
116. History Of Windsor Castle
117. The Port Royal 1692 Disaster
118. Day Of the Double Sun - The Manhattan Project
118. Riding Along the Salt Grass Trail
119. Day Of the Double Sun - The Manhattan Project
120. One Thousand And One Initial Letters
121. The Log Of Paul Bunyan – Master Woodsman
122. Rosewood 1923 - Smoke and Sorrow
123. Cofachiqui - Paramount Princess
124. Chief Powhatan - Tidewater Titan
125. Chief Shabbona – Bear Of Kankanee
126. Geronimo - The Nomad Apache

Other books published by Larry W Jones:

127. The Command Of Cochise

128. Titanic – A Survivor's Account

129. Abuse In Baltimore - The Archdiocese Exposed

130. Sand Creek Massacre - Chivington's Shame

All his publications are available on [Lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com)
